

## Meet the Workers...

### David Hayles and Douglas Mack: Elite Craftsmen from England Repairing the Capitol's 'Scagliola'

One of the more beautiful parts of the Idaho State Capitol is the scagliola (pronunciation with a silent "g" scay lee oh lah) covering the columns. Scagliola is a 16th century Italian invention simulating marble. It is often called "plaster marble" and uses plaster, pigments and glue burnished to a brilliant shine. It would be too heavy and terribly expensive to have solid marble columns throughout buildings; scagliola has been the answer to this problem.

**David Hayles** and **Douglas Mack**, both from England, will be in Boise until Wednesday. If you have a chance, you should say "hi" to them in the Capitol. David (wearing the sweater, at right) is founder of **Hayles & Howe Ornamental Plasterwork & Scagliola**. He explained that in the 1850s a "chap named Keene" developed the art of scagliola using modern materials. Douglas Mack (in the white shirt, both pictures) has been testing various methods to best "refresh" the scagliola that was crafted by Italian experts when the Idaho State Capitol was first built.



There are less than 20 people in the world today who have the knowledge to work on scagliola. David and Douglas have repaired the finish on one column; it took 2½ days, so multiply that by 230 columns in the Capitol and you can see that it will not be an easy or quick process to repair and refresh the scagliola. The actual marble is quicker and easier to repair according to **John Maulin**, CSHQA Architects.

**Stay tuned:** Next week a full explanation of how the original Italian artists constructed the Idaho State Capitol scagliola.

**Step Demolition:** Good news – the subcontractor completed demolition of the center section of the east steps over the Dec. 8-9 weekend and they are re-tying the rebar now and getting the forms in place to re-pour the steps. Weather allowing, the steps may even be re-poured this week.

**Please note:** The intent of **renewal news** is to provide readers the most current and complete information as possible regarding construction activities during the Capitol Restoration project. However, construction schedules are always subject to change, based upon weather conditions, transport and acquisition of support equipment and personnel, or other unforeseen circumstances. Inquiries, comments on the Restoration effort can be sent to **Diane Blume** at: [dblume@adm.state.id.us](mailto:dblume@adm.state.id.us) See **renewal news** online at: <http://www.idahocapitolcommission.org/whatsnew.html> If you have **questions about renewal news**, contact Carole Schroeder at 332-1802 or [cschroed@adm.state.id.us](mailto:cschroed@adm.state.id.us)